



Eddie A. Perez, Mayor

-----MEDIA RELEASE-----

Sarah Barr, Director of Communications

**MAYOR PEREZ APPLAUDS SUCCESS
OF PARKVILLE BUSINESSES--- LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM
IN PLACE TO ENSURE GROWTH**

(December 6, 2005)--- Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez wants to help small businesses grow in the Capital City. \$250,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money is now dedicated to loan guarantees for the Parkville neighborhood.

Mayor Perez says, "This will help vibrant neighborhoods like Parkville continue to shine and provide more jobs for city residents. It will now be easier for small, locally owned neighborhood businesses to be approved for needed financing."

The Mayor's Office and the Community Economic Development Fund are joined in the philosophy that locally owned businesses stimulate the economy.

Donna Wertenbach is the President and CED of CEDF. She says, "We are pleased to partner with the City of Hartford to generate small business growth in such a diverse and exciting neighborhood."

The original program was first established in 1997 in partnership with People's Bank. It created a loan fund for Parkville businesses. City funds were used to guarantee 30% of the repaying of these loans. The program expired in 2001. Since then, the Community Economic Development Fund (CEDF) was sought to continue it. A new program has been designed that re-establishes a revolving loan fund for Parkville through CEDF. Loans between \$5,000 and \$150,000 will be made for general business purposes.

Under the new program, \$200,000 of the CDBG funds would be dedicated for 30% loan guarantees and \$50,000 would be provided by the City to CEDF on a one-time basis to assist with the cost of loan marketing, underwriting, and counseling for borrowers. CEDF will capitalize the fund with \$750,000.

For more information on the loan program, call CEDF at (860) 249-3800.